(b) whether such building would be examined by the independent energy auditors:

(c) if so. whether the country has sufficient building auditors:

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(e) which institutions are involved in training and accreditation of energy auditors: and

(f) whether Government propose to establish an independent autonomous body of energy auditors on the lines of other professional bodies for ICSI and ICAI, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (f) The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) for new commercial buildings having a connected load of 500 KW and above, has been launched on a voluntary basis. To facilitate voluntary implementation of the ECBC, the Government, through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), is undertaking capacity building of architects, builders, municipal authorities, etc. and promoting awareness of energy efficient building designs and material.

ECBC compliance relates to design and construction plans of the building which would be scrutinized for compliance by the competent local authority, when such compliance is made mandatory.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has been authorized under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to accredit Energy Auditors.

There is no proposal to establish an independent autonomus body of energy auditors on the lines of other professional bodies, such as ICSI and ICAI.

Strike by Anganwadi workers

*33. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is known to Government that Anganwadi workers have observed countrywide strike on 10th July, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet their demands?

THE MINSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The major demands of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) are:

> Accord status of Grade 'C & 'D' employees of Government with consequential benefits.

> Payment of salary at par with the Government employees.

> Linkage of remuneration with Consumer Price Index.

> A lump sum *ex-gratia* benefit on retirement of Rs. 1,00.000/- to AWWs and Rs. 50,000/- to AWHs.

> Extension of social security benefits like provident funds, pension etc. to all AWWs/AWHs.

> Enhancement of honorarium to Rs. 3.000/- for AWWs and Rs. 2,000/- to AWHs.

(c) With a view to consider the demands of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) Government constituted a Review Committee for examining current levels of honorarium and related issues of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. The Report of the Review Committee is under the consideration of the Government.

Engineering colleges in the country

*34. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of engineering colleges in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that these colleges are facing acute shortage of qualified professors and lecturers;

(c) if so, the measures being taken to meet the shortage;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government have imposed a ban on recruitment of teachers; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) The total number of degree level Engineering institutions approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is 1617. These colleges are facing acute shortage of qualified professors and lecturers.

AICTE had constituted a high-powered Committee on "Faculty Development in Technical Institutions" under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Rama Rao. The Committee in its Report has recommended several measures for faculty development. The Report has been accepted in principle by the Executive Committee of the AICTE. Subject to the availability of funds during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, these recommendations will be implemented. Considering the shortage of well-qualified technical faculty in the country, the age of superannuation of teachers in the Centrally funded Institutions of higher and technical education has been enhanced from 62 years to 65 years. The Central Government has not imposed any ban on the recruitment of teachers.

Poly Metalie Nodule Programme

*35. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in the poly Metallic Nodule programme in terms of mining of nodules during the last five years:

(b) whether Government propose to expand the metallurgical extraction facilities and their capacity; and